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FORMER CIA CHIEF TOLD WHITE HOUSE TO TRACK SCUDS ON CNN WASHINGTON, Sept 26, Reuter - William Webster, newly retired head of the Central Intelligence Agency, said on Thursday he used to tell the White House to turn on Cable News Network for updates on Iraqi Scud missile shots.

''I used to get the call when the sensors detected a Scud going up in the air with its probable destination. And I would push the button to (National Security Adviser) Brent Scowcroft and I'd say 'a Scud has just been launched from southern Iraq headed in the general direction of Dhahran or Riyadh as the case might be. Turn on CNN.'''

Webster, who retired on September 1 after running the CIA for four years, said television showed where the missiles landed before the intelligence community could predict.

'We couldn't know where those Scuds were going to go. The iraqis didn't know where they were going. But the cameras were there to record the event. And it was very useful,' he said.

Webster has Joined the law firm of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley and McCloy in Washington. He made his remarks to a breakfast of the Law and National Security Standing Committee of the American Bar Association.